**RISE UP** in 2021

May 30, 2021

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***MADE FOR THIS MOMENT***

A Study of the Book of Esther

***Dead to Delight***

Esther 5:9-6:14



Do you believe that God cares deeply about you?

Whose hand is your heart in?

Whose hand are your circumstances in?

Whose hand is your future in?

In a world full of evil, selfishness, troubles and hardships, it is important to know the answer to those questions. It is important to know who it is that you are counting on to keep it all together ... to know who it is you are trusting to ensure things work out to the very best outcome possible, even when it feels like your world is coming to ruin.

God is always working in **providential** ways.

God’s providence is like a great clock – keeping time and order.

*God’s providence is nothing more than His goodness in action*.

- **Charles Spurgeon**

The message this morning is entitled **Dead to Delight.** We have seen God’s providence at work as we journey through the book of Esther these last few weeks and we continue today.

*And Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he neither rose nor trembled before him,* ***he was filled with wrath*** *against Mordecai. Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home, and he   
sent and brought his friends and his wife Zeresh.* ***Esther 5:9-10***

*And* ***Haman recounted*** *to them* ***the splendor of his riches****, the number of his sons, all the promotions with which the king had honored him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and the servants of the king. Then Haman said, “Even Queen Esther let* ***no one but me*** *come with the king to the feast she prepared. And tomorrow also I am invited by her together with the king. Yet all this is worth nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.” Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Let a gallows fifty cubits high be made, and in the morning tell the king to* ***have Mordecai hanged upon it****. Then go joyfully with the king to the feast.” This idea pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.* ***Esther 5:10-14***

*The heart of* ***man plans his way****, but* ***the Lord establishes his steps****.***Proverbs 16:9**

*The* ***king’s******heart*** *is like* ***channels of water in the hands of the Lord****. He turns it* ***wherever He wishes****.* **Proverbs 21:1**

*On that night the king* ***could not sleep****. And he gave* ***orders to bring the book of memorable deeds****, the chronicles, and* ***they were read before the king****. And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. And the king said, “****What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?****” The king's young men who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.”*

**Esther 6:1-3**

God’s timing is always **perfect**.

*And the king said, “Who is in the court?”* ***Now Haman had just entered the outer court*** *of the king's palace* ***to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged*** *on the gallows that he had prepared for him. And the king's young men told him, “Haman is there, standing in the court.” And the king said, “Let him come in.”*

**Esther 6:4-5**

*So Haman came in, and the king said to him,* ***“What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?”*** *And Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?” And Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king delights to honor,* ***let royal robes*** *be brought, which the king has worn, and* ***the horse*** *that the king has ridden, and on whose head* ***a royal crown*** *is set. And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials.* ***Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor****, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.’” Then the king said to Haman,* ***“Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew****, who sits at the king's gate.* ***Leave out nothing that you have mentioned.****” So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.”* **Esther 6:6-11**

The **providence of God** works everything out for good for those **in whom God** **delights.**  But here is the thing …

You are either **alive** to God’s delight ... or **dead** to it.

So it raises the question: “**Who is it that God delights in?”** Who benefits from His providence, His protective and loving care?

God opposes the proud but **shows favor to the humble.** **James 4:6 NIV**

*The Lord takes delight in* ***His people****. He crowns* ***the humble*** *with victory.* **Psalm 149:4**

*but the Lord takes pleasure in* ***those who fear him****, in* ***those who hope in his steadfast love****.*  **Psalm 147:11**

In other words …

The King delights in those who delight in the **King**.

What or whom is your delight in?

It was no accident that Jesus was crucified between two thieves. It was by God’s providential design. Each representing a choice.

One thief was made alive to God’s delight, the other remained dead to it.

God delights in those who delight themselves in Him.

**When you are in God’s delight ...**

God **rejoices** over you.

***As a bridegroom rejoices*** *over a bride,* ***so shall God rejoice over you****.* **Isaiah 62:5**

He **remembers** you.

***He is near*** *to the brokenhearted and* ***saves those*** *crushed in spirit.*  **Psalm 34:18**

*For God is not unjust.* ***He will not forget*** *how hard* ***you have worked*** *for him and how you have* ***shown your love to him*** *by* ***caring for other believers****, as you still do.* **Hebrews 6:10 NLT**

He **calms** your fears with His **love**.

*he will rejoice over you with gladness;* ***he will quiet you******by his love****; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

**Zephaniah 3:17b**

He **lifts** you up in due time.

He brought me into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me. **Psalm 18:19**

*Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people,* ***you will not overcome him*** *but will* ***surely fall before him****.”* **Esther 6:12-13**

Your enemies will not **triumph** over you, but rather will fall **before** you.

You are God’s delight when you delight yourself in God.